

the molars differ by facing further outwards than usual, the line of the two grinding-surfaces, if produced internally, meeting at an angle almost approaching a right angle, *i. e.* about  $110^{\circ}$ . In *H. chacarius* they meet at about  $130^{\circ}$ , and in a large example of *H. vulpinus* at over  $150^{\circ}$ . I cannot find that there is any appreciable age-variation in this character, though its exact definition is not easy.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body "132" mm.\*; tail 133; hind foot 35.5; ear 18.

Skull: greatest length 35; basilar length 29.5; greatest breadth 20; nasals 13.3; interorbital breadth 4.3; palatilar length 18.2; diastema 10; palatal foramina 7.3; length of upper molar series 7.5; breadth of  $m^1$  2.5.

*Hab.* Bañado de S. Felipe, Tucuman. Alt. 435 m.

*Type.* Female. B.M. no. 4.10.2.5. Collected 18th June, 1904, by L. Dinelli. One specimen.

This small species is remarkable for its thick and heavy molars and the unusually oblique angle at which they are set.

LXIX.—A new Species of *Pteridium* (*Scopoli*) from the North-east Atlantic. By L. W. BYRNE.

ONLY a single species of *Pteridium* (*Scopoli*), as defined by Günther † ('Challenger' Deep-sea Fishes, p. 105), has hitherto been described—*P. atrum* (*Risso*), a denizen of the Mediterranean coast of France, where, however, it appears to be uncommon.

On a recent cruise in the northern portion of the Bay of Biscay the S.S. 'Huxley,' employed by the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom upon the International Fishery Investigations, took a fish of this genus which appears to be referable to a previously undescribed species, which I propose to name in honour of my friend Dr. E. J. Allen, the Director of the Association.

*Pteridium Alleni.*

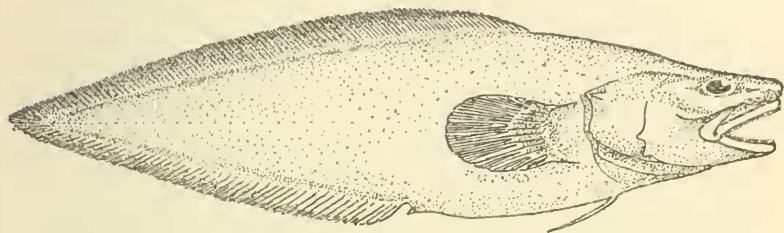
Form stout; body compressed in caudal region, its greatest height about 4 times in its length (without caudal fin).

\* This would appear to be an under-measurement: the skin looks contracted, but the head and body still measure over 140 mm.

† The "some slightly enlarged teeth along the inner series of the mandible and on the vomer," mentioned by Günther, are stated by Moreau, on the authority of Bellotti, to be found in the male only.

Head depressed,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times in length (without caudal), nearly twice as long as broad, its breadth about equal to its height at isthmus. Snout rounded, with numerous mucous glands, about  $4\frac{1}{4}$  times in head. Eye of moderate size, longer than the flat interorbital space is wide, 6 times in head and less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times in snout. Gape  $2\frac{3}{5}$  times in head, barely reaching beyond the level of the hind margin of orbit; maxilla weak and but little expanded distally. Villiform teeth in both jaws and in a V-shaped band on vomer.

Marginal fins continuous, their bases covered with skin and scales; fin-rays difficult to count, probably D. ca. 90, A. ca. 55. Ventrals each with two closely apposed rays.



*Pteridium Alleni*,  $\times 1$ .

Body covered with a copious mucous secretion; scales very small, approximately 105 in a longitudinal and 35 in a transverse series. Lateral line very indistinct and broken.

Colour, after preservation, umber-brown, darker on top of head and front part of dorsum, paler on belly. Rays of marginal fins dark.

Length of type 101 mm. (96 mm. without caudal).

*Hab.* Mouth of English Channel, near La Chapelle Bank, ca. 450 fath.

The chief dimensions of the type are as follows:—Length 96 mm.; length, including caudal fin, 101 mm.; length to origin of dorsal fin 33 mm., to origin of anal fin 49 mm.; greatest height of body 23 mm.; length of head 27.5 mm., of snout 6.5 mm., of eye 4.5 mm.; interorbital width 4 mm.; height of head at isthmus 15 mm.; breadth of head 15 mm.; length of upper jaw 10.5 mm.

While the general form and proportions of the body are somewhat stouter in *P. Alleni* than in *P. atrum*, neither they nor the fin-ray and scale formulæ afford a ready means of identifying the species. In *P. Alleni*, however, the head is slightly larger and markedly more depressed than in *P. atrum*,

the eye is larger, and the interorbital space far narrower; in contradistinction to the comparatively short gape and weak maxilla in *P. Alleni*, *P. atrum* has a gape extending far beyond the hind margin of the eye and a stout maxilla with a broad distal end.

These points are shown by the following percentages, taken from three specimens 80–90 mm. long (without caudal) of *P. atrum* and the type of *P. Alleni*:—

	<i>P. atrum.</i>	<i>P. Alleni.</i>
Length of head . . . . .	26-25	28 p. c. of total length (without caudal).
"    snout . . . . .	25-23	24 p. c. of head.
"    eye . . . . .	14-12.5	16.5 " "
Interorbital width . . . . .	26-23	15 " "
Height of head . . . . .	70	55 " "
Breadth " . . . . .	50-45	55 " "
Length of upper jaw . . . . .	60-55	35 " "

The following key should suffice (at any rate until further material is available) to distinguish the species apart:—

#### PTERIDIUM (Scopoli), Günther.

1. Breadth of head not more than half its length or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its height at isthmus. Interorbital width about equal to snout and more than  $1\frac{1}{3}$  times as long as eye. Upper jaw broad distally and extending far beyond hind margin of eye . . . . . *P. atrum* (Risso).
2. Breadth of head more than half its length and equal to its height at isthmus. Interorbital width less than length of eye and more than  $1\frac{1}{3}$  times in snout. Upper jaw narrow distally, reaching as far as hind margin of eye . . . . . *P. Alleni*, *By.*

#### LXX.—*A Collection of Fishes from the King River, Western Australia.* By C. TATE REGAN, B.A.

A SMALL series of freshwater fishes from the King River, Western Australia, collected by Mr. G. C. Shortridge and presented to the British Museum by W. E. Balston, Esq., is of some interest, although only six species are represented.

#### Galaxiidae.

##### *Galaxias occidentalis*, Ogilby, 1899.

This species is the only *Galaxias* so far recorded from Western Australia.